



State of Maryland

Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee
Thursday, February 7, 2013, 1:00 pm
Amoss Room, Miller Senate Building
Budget Hearings – DHMH – Mental Hygiene Administration

This testimony is being respectfully submitted on behalf of the State and federally mandated Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/ P.L. 102-321 Planning Council. This council, referred to as the Joint Council, is composed of consumers, family members of persons with psychiatric disabilities, mental health professionals, provider organizations, advocacy organizations, representatives of other State agencies, and other interested citizens. We meet monthly with MHA leadership, assist in the development and review of the State Mental Health Plan; and also contribute to the development of Maryland's Mental Health Block Grant applications and implementation reports.

c/o Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473
TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

Healthy People in Healthy Communities



State of Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

House Appropriations Committee House Health and Human Resources Subcommittee Wednesday February 6, 2013, 1:00 pm Room 150, House Office Building Budget Hearings – DHMH – Mental Hygiene Administration

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of full funding of the Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) FY 2013 budget. My name is John Turner; I am a member of the State and federally mandated Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/ P.L. 102-321 Planning Council. This council, referred to as the Joint Council, is composed of consumers, family members of persons with psychiatric disabilities, mental health professionals, provider organizations, advocacy organizations, representatives of other State agencies, and other interested citizens. We meet monthly with MHA leadership, assist in the development and review of the State Mental Health Plan; and also contribute to the development of Maryland's Mental Health Block Grant applications and implementation reports.

On behalf of the Advisory Council, I am here today to urge you to maintain access to mental health care and resist further cuts to mental health services. The system is currently serving an increased number of individuals (more than 142,000) while maintaining the average cost of services per consumer. The projected level of funding does not provide sufficient resources to serve an anticipated increase in numbers of persons with mental illness entering the PMHS as a result of increasing Medicaid enrollment and improved access through health care

reform. Additional funding will enhance: crisis services that divert individuals from unnecessary hospitalization and criminal justice involvement; promote recovery through increased development of affordable housing through initiatives such as the Governor's Rental Housing Works Initiative; and, in efforts to promote violence and crisis prevention, expand Mental Health First Aid (a low cost high impact public education program (which originated in Australia) that teaches lay people methods of assisting someone who may be in the early stages of developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis situation.

We further support the work of the MHA, the psychiatric facilities, and the local Core Service Agencies in their work to coordinate a continuum of care. MHA and its Core Service Agencies continue to explore initiatives to increase diversion from psychiatric facilities and further enhance community-based services. For the Core Service Agencies, we ask that you limit cuts to their budgets as many of them struggle, despite staffing shortages, to maintain their statewide role of efficiently managing access to mental health services and coordinating contracting choices that impact those services on the local level.

In closing, the Joint Council urges you to support full funding for the Mental Hygiene Administration's FY 2014 budget for community and hospital systems of care.

Attachment:
Joint Council Membership List

The Joint Council Membership List

This membership information has been updated as of January 2013

THE MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE

Name	Type of Membership	Agency or Organization
Sarah Burns, Chair	Consumer Advocate	
M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair	Citizen Advocate	
Gerald Beemer	Mental Health Provider	Shore Behavioral Health
Mike Finkle	Consumer Advocate	On Our Own of Maryland
Joshana Goga	Medical Profession	
Dennis McDowell	Citizen Advocate	
Joanne Meekins	Mental Health Advocate	Consumer Quality Team of Maryland
Livia Pazourek	Citizen Advocate	
Robert Pender	Citizen Advocate	
Charles Reifsnider	Consumer Advocate	
John Scharf	Business Professional	
Anita Solomon	Provider of Mental Health Services	
John Turner	Clergy	Shore Health System

THE PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

Name	Type of Membership	Agency or Organization
Sharon Lipford	Family Advocate	Harford County Government
Lynn Albizo	Citizen Advocate	
Carol Allenza, Coordinator	Family Advocate	MD Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health
Thomas E. Arthur, Coordinator	Mental Health Advocate	
Naomi Booker	Mental Health Advocate	
Tracee E. Bryant	Advocacy Group Representative	The Black Mental Health Alliance
Eugenia W. Conolly	State Employee	Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration
Chicquita Crawford	Family Member/Child	
Herb Cromwell	Mental Health Provider Organization	Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland

PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL – CONTINUED

Name	Type of Membership	Agency or Organization
Michael S. Ito	State Employee	Department of Juvenile Services
R Terence Farrell	Core Service Agency Representative	Maryland Association of Core Service Agencies
Catherine Drake	State Employee	Division of Rehabilitation Services
Kate Farinholt	Advocacy Group Representative	National Alliance on Mental Illness
Vira Froehlinger	Citizen Advocate	
A. Scott Gibson	Consumer Advocate	
Geraldine Gray	Family Member/Adult	
Alice Harris	State Employee	Maryland Department of Education
Victor Henderson	State Employee	Maryland Department of Disabilities
Adrienne J. Hollimon	State Employee	Medical Assistance, Office of Health Services
Julia Jerscheid	Consumer Advocate	
Kim Bennardi	State Employee	Developmental Disabilities Administration
Michael J. Lang	Consumer Advocate	
George Lipman	Judicial System	
Duane Felix	State Employee	Department of Housing and Community Development
Dan Martin	Advocacy Group Representative	Mental Health Assoc. of Maryland, Inc.
Cynthia Petion	State Employee	Mental Hygiene Administration
Jacqueline Powell	State Employee	Department of Human Resources, Placement and Support Services, DSS
Linda J. Raines	Advocacy Group Representative	Mental Health Association of Maryland, Inc
Sarah Rhine	Advocacy Group Representative	Maryland Disability Law Center
Sheryl Sparer	Consumer Advocate	
Jane Walker	Family Advocate	MD Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health

PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL – CONTINUED

Name	Type of Membership	Agency or Organization
Kathleen Ward	State Employee	Department of Human Resources, Adult Services
Phoenix Woody	State Employee	Maryland Department of Aging